

1954

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

FRIDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1954.

PRES T:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. T.C. Jerrom (Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).
The Honourable P.A. Cummings
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing).
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall
(Member for Communications and Works).
The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and
Co-operative Development).
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj
The Honourable R.C. Tello

Deputy Speaker

Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.
Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee
Mr. W.A. Phang
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.
Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal
Mr. Sugrim Singh

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

The Honourable G.H. Smellie - on leave.
Lt. Col. E.J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D. - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 16th of December, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documents were laid on the table:-

(i) By the Chief Secretary:

The Annual Report on British Guiana for the year 1953.

(CS. 229/1 X)(Circulated).

(ii) By the Financial Secretary:

Report on the Taxation System of British Guiana by Mr. R.O. Nicholas of Her Majesty's Inland Revenue Department.

(F.S.G. 264^C/53)(Circulated).

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines laid the following replies to questions tabled by Mr. Lee on the 10th of September, 1954:

Question 1: Is Government aware that the Rice Farmers are anxiously awaiting the enactment of the new Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Bill?

Answer 1: Yes. The report of the Committee and the recommended draft amending legislation are being examined by the Law Officers. It is hoped that it will be possible to introduce the Bill at an early date.

Question 2: If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state when the Bill will be introduced?

Answer 2: See answer to Question 1.

Question 3: Has Government received the comments and amendments to the Rice Producers Ordinance No. 7/46 from the Rice Producers Association?

Answer 3: The Rice Producers Association has submitted proposals for the amendment of the Rice Producers Ordinance, 1946, which are under consideration.

Question 4: If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government circulate copies of the comments to members of the Legislative Council and state when the legislation to amend the Ordinance will be introduced?

../Answer 4:

Answer 4: See answer to Question 3. If it is decided to introduce amending legislation the draft Bill and explanatory memorandum will be published and laid in Council in the normal course.

Question 5: Is Government aware that the Rice Marketing Board has stated that they have explored every available venue for the sale of Parboiled Rice?

Answer 5: This Government is not aware that the Rice Marketing Board 's finding any difficulty in disposing of supplies of rice available for export. It is however understood that the Board is considering the possibility of developing an export trade in white rice.

Question 6: If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state where, when and to whom have such approaches for sales been made?

Answer 6: See answer to Question 5.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS - First Readings.

DEVELOPMENT FUND BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 57/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF WORKS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONY was read a first time.

LEGAL TENDER (JAMAICA CURRENCY NOTES) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 58/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE THAT ALL GOVERNMENT CURRENCY NOTES WHICH ARE LEGAL TENDER IN THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA SHALL BE LEGAL TENDER FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT IN BRITISH GUIANA was read a first time.

BRITISH GUIANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 56/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BRITISH GUIANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, 1953, WITH RESPECT TO THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES OF DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AND OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BRITISH GUIANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a first time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (BUXTON AND FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTION AND ACTS) VALIDATION BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 55/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by the Member for Communications and Works the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE

../TO VALIDATE

TO VALIDATE THE ELECTION OF CERTAIN COUNCILLORS OF THE BUXTON AND FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE DISTRICT AND ALL PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THAT DISTRICT IN WHICH THOSE COUNCILLORS HAVE ACTED, AND ALL ACTS DONE BY SUCH PERSONS AS COUNCILLORS OF THAT VILLAGE COUNCIL was read a first time.

MOTIONS

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (TEMPORARY REGISTRATION) ORDINANCE, 1947 (No. 24) - EXTENSION.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 24) shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the 1st January, 1955.

RENT RESTRICTION ORDINANCE, 1941 (No. 23 of 1941) - EXTENSION.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1941 (No. 23 of 1941), shall continue in force for a further period of one year up to and including the 31st December, 1955.

BILLS

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (DECLARATION OF AREA AND VALIDATION OF ACTS) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 53/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CERTAIN DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION AREA, THE VALIDATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN WORKS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

BUDGET - 1955.

MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines for the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to enable the Appropriation Bill, 1955, to be read a first time, was carried.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1955.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUPPLIES GRANTED IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL was read a first time.

../The Financial

The Financial Secretary then moved the second reading of the Bill and delivered his Budget Address, copies of which were distributed at the same time to Members.

On conclusion the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded the motion.

The Financial Secretary laid on the table the following documents, copies of which were distributed to Members:

- (a) The Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1955.
- (b) The Development Estimates for 1955.
- (c) The Budget Statement (Leg. Co. No. 11/1954).

Thereafter, the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1955 and the Development Estimates for 1955 were committed to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, and further consideration of the motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, 1955, was deferred pending submission of Finance Committee's report to Council.

Arising out of the Budget Statement, the Financial Secretary introduced the following Bills and with the consent of Council proceeded with the first readings:

BILLS - First Readings.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 -
Bill No. 60/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDINANCE, 1950, WITH RESPECT TO THE LICENCE FEES FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES was read a first time.

The Financial Secretary gave notice of his intention to take this Bill through all stages at the next meeting.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 63/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE was read a first time.

TAX (AMENDMENT NO. 3) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 61/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE, 1939, was read a first time.

CUSTOMS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL, 1954 -
Bill No. 62/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, 1952, was read a first time.

The Financial Secretary informed Council that under Section 2 of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Ordinance (Chapter 41), Order in Council No. 63 of 1954 to bring into force immediately the following Bills had been published that day:-

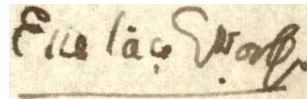
- (a) TAX (AMENDMENT NO. 3) BILL, 1954 - (Bill No. 61/1954).
- (b) CUSTOMS (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL,
1954 - (Bill No. 62/1954).

Members then agreed to commence examination of the Estimates in Finance Committee on Monday, the 3rd of January, 1955, at 2.00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, the 20th of December, 1954.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

20th December, 1954.